

Sophia (given name)

Sophia, also spelled **Sofia**, is a feminine given name, from Greek Σοφία, *Sophía*, "Wisdom". Diminutive forms include Sophie and Sofie. The given name is first recorded in the beginning of the 4th century.^[2] It is a common female name in the Eastern Orthodox countries. It became very popular in the West beginning in the later 1990s and became one of the most popularly given girls' names in the Western world during the 2010s.

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Sophia	
Gender	feminine
Origin	
Word/name	Greek
Derivation	from Greek Σοφία , <i>Sophía</i>
Meaning	Wisdom ^[1]
Region of origin	Roman Empire
Other names	
Alternative spelling	Sofia
Variant form(s)	Sophie
Related names	Sofija , Sofiya , Sofya
See also	Sonia



A depiction of Saint Sophia and Her Three Daughters, Faith, Hope and Charity (icon of the Novgorod school, 16th century).

Popularity

The name was comparatively common in continental Europe in the medieval and early modern period. It was popularized in Britain by the German House of Hanover in the 18th century. It was repeatedly popularised among the wider population, by the name of a character in the novel *Tom Jones* (1794) by Henry Fielding, in *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1766) by Oliver Goldsmith, and in the 1960s by Italian actress Sophia Loren (b. 1934).

Sophia was comparatively popular in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th century; its use declined in the 1920s to 1950s; it became again moderately popular during the 1960s to 1980s.

During the 1990s to 2010s the popularity of the name rose dramatically in many countries throughout the western world. Suggested influences for this trend include Sofía Vergara and Sofia Coppola (popular from the late 1990s) and Sofia Hellqvist (popular from the 2000s).^[3] *Sophia* was the most popularly given girls' name in the United States during 2011–2013. The form *Sofia* was rarely given in the United States before

the 1970s; it also steeply rose in popularity in the 1990s to 2000s and peaked at rank 12 in 2012.^[4]

When combined all spelling variants (Sophia, Sofia, Sophie, etc.) together, Sophia was the most popular name for 8 years in a row from 2010–2017 in the United States.^[5]

Sophie was the fifth most popular name for girls in Australia in 2013.^[6] The name had a similar rise in popularity in other countries, reaching rank 1 in the 2010s in Italy, Chile, Denmark, Finland,^[4] Russia^[7] and Estonia.^[8] and was in the top ten most popular girls' names in the Czech Republic, ^[9] in Poland (as *Zofia*),^[10] Spain, Switzerland^[4] Romania^[11] and Bulgaria.^[12]



Sophia Loren in 1955

Name variants

Greek Σοφία was adopted without significant phonological changes into numerous languages, as *Sophia* (German, and thence English) and *Sofia* (Romance languages, and thence also to Germanic languages and Finnish, etc.). The spelling *Soffia* is Icelandic and Welsh. Hungarian has *Zsófia*. Modern Spanish uses the acute diacritic, *Sofía*. South and East Slavic and Baltic languages have *Sofija* (Софија), *Sofiya* (София) and *Sofya* (Софья). West Slavic (Polish and Czech-Slovak) introduced a voiced sibilant, *Zofia*, *Żofia*, *Žofie*.

French has the (disyllabic) hypocoristic *Sophie*, which was also introduced in German, Dutch/Flemish, English and Scandinavian in the spelling *Sofie*. A Dutch hypocoristic is *Sofieke*. Russian has the hypocoristic Соня (*Sonya*), which in the late 19th century was introduced to Western languages, in the spellings *Sonya*, *Sonia* and *Sonja*, via characters with this name in the novels *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1866, English translation 1885) and *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy (1869, English translation 1886).

Turkish Safiye is from the unrelated Arabic Safiyya (صفية "pure").

Persian Sofia (Persian: صوفيا) is from unrelated Sufi, a sect of Islam.

People

Saints

- Saint Sophia of Milan, feast day 17 September
- Saint Sophia of Rome, martyr, feast day 15 May
- Saint Sophia of Sortino (Sicily), martyr, feast day 23 September^[13]
- Saint Sophia of Fermo (March of Ancona), feast day 30 April^[13]
- Saints Sophia and Irene of Egypt (3rd century), feast day 4 June^[13]
- Saint Sophia of Thrace (9th century), feast day 4 June^[13]
- Saint Sofia of Suzdal (d. 1542), see Solomonina Yuryevna Saburova
- Saint Sophia of Slutsk (d. 1612), see Sophia Olelkovich Radziwill

Royalty

- [Sofia of Bavaria Wittelsbach](#) (1376–1425), Queen of Bohemia
- [Sophia Palaiologina](#) (1455–1503), Grand Duchess of Moscow
- [Safiye Sultan](#) (1550–1619), wife of Murad III, mother of Mehmed III; originally named Sofia
- [Sophia of Hanover](#) (1630–1714), heir to the English throne
- [Sophia Dorothea of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg](#) (1636–1689), German noblewoman
- [Sophia Alekseyevna](#) (1657–1704), Russian regent
- [Sophia Dorothea of Celle](#) (1666–1726), Duchess of Brunswick-Lüneburg, wife of George I of Great Britain
- [Sophia Dorothea of Hanover](#) (1687–1757), Queen consort of Prussia, daughter of George I of Great Britain
- [Sophia Magdalen of Brandenburg-Kulmbach](#) (1700–1770), Queen consort of Denmark-Norway
- [Princess Sophia Dorothea of Prussia](#) (1719–1765), daughter of Frederick William I of Prussia and Sophia Dorothea of Hanover
- [Margravine Sophia Dorothea of Brandenburg-Schwedt](#) (1736–1798), Duchess of Württemberg
- [Sophia Frederica of Mecklenburg-Schwerin](#) (1758–1794), Princess and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin
- [Princess Augusta Sophia of the United Kingdom](#) (1768–1840), Duchess of Brunswick and Lüneburg
- [Princess Sophia of the United Kingdom](#) (1777–1848), British princess
- [Princess Sophia of Gloucester](#) (1773–1844), British princess
- [Sophia Sidney, Baroness De L'Isle and Dudley](#) (1796–1837), daughter of William IV
- [Sophia of Nassau](#) (1836–1913), Queen consort of Sweden and Norway
- [Sophia of Prussia](#) (1870–1932), Queen consort of Greece
- [Princess Sophie of Greece and Denmark](#) (1914–2001), later Princess of Hesse, Princess of Hannover
- [Queen Sofía of Spain](#) (born 1938), Queen consort of Spain
- [Princess Sofia, Duchess of Värmland](#) (born 1984), wife of Prince Carl Philip, Duke of Värmland
- [Infanta Sofía of Spain](#) (born 2007), Spanish princess
- [Sophie, Countess of Wessex](#) (born 1965), wife of Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex

Arts and entertainment industry

- [Sofia \(Swedish singer\)](#) (nee Sofia Berntson), Swedish singer
- [Sophia Abrahão](#) (born 1991), Brazilian actress
- [Sophia Aliberti](#) (born 1963), Greek actress and TV presenter
- [Sofia Andres](#), a Filipina actress and commercial model
- [Sofiko Chiaureli](#) (1937–2008), Georgian actress
- [Sofia Coppola](#) (born 1971), American actress and director
- [Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen](#) (1919–2004), Portuguese poet
- [Sophia Baddeley](#) (1745–1786), English actress
- [Sophia Bush](#) (born 1982), American actress
- [Sophia Di Martino](#) (born 1983), English actress
- [Sofia Djama](#), Algerian film director

- [Sophia Dussek](#) (1775–1831), Scottish composer
- [Sofia Essaïdi](#) (born 1984), Franco-Moroccan singer
- [Sofia Gubaidulina](#) (born 1931), Russian-Tatar composer
- [Sophia Peabody Hawthorne](#) (1809–1871), American painter
- [Sophia Jex-Blake](#) (1840–1912), English physician
- [Sofia Karlsson](#) (born 1975), Swedish musician
- [Sophia Karp](#) (1861–1904), Romanian actress
- [Sophia Kokosalaki](#) (1972-2019), Greek fashion designer
- [Zofia Kossak-Szczucka](#) (1889–1968), Polish writer
- [Sophia Laskaridou](#), Greek artist
- [Sophia Lee](#) (1750–1824), English novelist
- [Sophia Loren](#) (born 1934), Italian actress
- [Sophia McDougall](#) (born 1979), British author
- [Sophia Michahelles](#) (born 1976), American puppeteer
- [Sofia Milos](#) (born 1969), Swiss actress
- [Sophia Myles](#) (born 1980), English actress
- [Zofia Nałkowska](#), Polish writer, author of *Medallions*
- [Sophia Yakovlevna Parnok](#) (1885–1933), Russian poet
- [Sophia Romero](#), American writer
- [Sofia Rotaru](#) (born 1947), Ukrainian singer
- [Sofia Samatar](#) (born 1971), Somali-American writer
- [Sofia Shinas](#) (born 1968), Canadian artist
- [Sophie Turner](#) (born 1996), English Actress
- [Sofia Vembo](#), Greek singer
- [Sofia Vassilieva](#) (born 1992), American actress
- [Sofia Vergara](#) (born 1972), Colombian model and actress
- [Sophia Vossou](#) (born 1961), Greek singer
- [Sofia Wylie](#) (born 2004), American actress
- [Sophia Yan](#) (born 1986), American classical pianist
- [Sofie Zamchick](#) (born 1994), American singer and actress

Sports

- [Sofia Akhmeteli](#) (born 1981), Georgian alpine skier
- [Sofia Arvidsson](#) (born 1984), Swedish tennis player
- [Sofia Asoumanaki](#), Greek rower
- [Sophia Diagne](#) (born 1998), Senegalese swimmer
- [Sofia Bekatorou](#) (born 1977), Greek sailor and Olympic gold medalist
- [Sophia Flörsch](#) (born 2000), German racing driver
- [Sofia Iosifidou](#), Greek water polo player
- [Sofia Kenin](#), American professional tennis player
- [Sophia Koggouli](#), Greek footballer
- [Sofia Konukh](#) (born 1980), Russian water polo player
- [Sophia Morgan](#), Fijian sailor
- [Sofía Mulánovich](#) (born 1983), Peruvian surfer

- Sofia Muratova (born 1929–2006), Russian gymnast
- Sofia Papadopoulou (born 1983), Greek sailor
- Sofia Polgar, Hungarian-born Israeli and Canadian chess grandmaster
- Sofia Riga, Greek runner
- Sofia Sakorafa (born 1957), Greek javelin thrower and politician
- Sofia Tikhonova (born 1998), Russian ski jumper
- Sofia Yfantidou, Greek track and field athlete
- Sofiya Bozhanova (born 1967), Bulgarian long and triple jump
- Sofiya Burkhanova (born 1989), Uzbekistani shot putter

Other

- Sofia Kovalevskaya (1850–1891), Russian mathematician
- Sophia Aggelonitis, Canadian politician
- Sophia Hayden Bennett (1868–1953), American architect
- Sophia Brahe (1556–1643), Danish astronomer
- Sophia Collier (born 1956), American entrepreneur
- Sophia Drossopoulou, Greek computer scientist
- Sophia Eckerson (1880–1954), American botanist and microchemist
- Sophia Forero (born 1967), American jewelry designer
- Sophia Getzowa (1872–1946), Belarusian-Israeli pathologist and scientist
- Sophia Orne Johnson (1826-1899), American author
- Sophie Lancaster (1986–2020), English female murder victim
- Sophia Leung (born 1933), Canadian politician
- Sophia Lösche, German female murder victim
- Sophia Lvovna Perovskaya (1853–1881), Russian revolutionary
- Sofia Richie (born 1998), American fashion model, daughter of Lionel Richie
- Sophia D. Stoddard, American educator
- Sofia Tekela-Smith (born 1970), New Zealand artist
- Sophia Wilson (1860–1???), Japanese courtesan and wife of Captain John Wilson

Fictional characters

- Princess Sofia, main character from the animated TV show *Sofia the First*
- Sophie Amundsen, main character from the novel *Sophie's World*
- Sofia Constantinas, from the comic *Wonder Woman*
- Sofia Curtis, from the TV series *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*
- Sofia Johnson, from film *The Color Purple*
- Sofia Dupre, a character on the American soap opera *The Young and the Restless*
- Sofia Lamb, from the video game *BioShock 2*
- Sofia Petrovna, a character from the novel of the same name
- Sofia Sartor from the video game *Assassin's Creed: Revelations*
- Sofia Serrano from the film *Vanilla Sky*
- Sofia Robbin Sloan Torres, daughter of Callie Torres, Mark Sloan, and Arizona Robbins from *Grey's Anatomy*

- Sophia, playable character from *Fire Emblem: Fūin no Tsurugi*
- Sophia Aubrey, from the *Aubrey-Maturin* series of novels by Patrick O'Brian
- Sophia Esteed, from the video game *Star Ocean: Till the End of Time*
- Sophia Forrester, from the animated TV series *Last Exile*
- Sophia Hapgood, from the video game *Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis*
- Sophia Lopez, from the TV series *Nip/Tuck*
- Sophia Peletier, from the TV series and comic books *The Walking Dead*
- Sophia Petrillo, from the TV series *The Golden Girls*
- Sophia Marlowe, from the TV series *Girlboss*
- Sophia Tutu, a character from the animated TV series *The Raccoons*
- Sophia Western, main heroine of the novel *The History of Tom Jones*
- Sophie, from the video game *Tales of Graces*
- Sophie Neveu Saint-Clair, character in Dan Brown's book *The Da Vinci Code*
- Sophie Zawistowska, the title character of the novel and movie *Sophie's Choice*
- Sophia, a fictional character from the video game *Professor Layton and the Diabolical Box*
- Sofia Porter, technician of the MD-5 group and Lucinia's sister in the *Meta Runner* internet series.
- Sophie Norton, from the Nickelodeon series *Genie in the House*
- Sophie Hatter, from the book and movie *Howl's Moving Castle*

See also

- Sophie (disambiguation)
- Sonia (name)
- SOFIA

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External links

- NamepediA Blog - The Journey of the Name Sophia (<http://blog-en.namepedia.org/2015/08/the-journey-of-the-name-sophia/>)
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